

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 A-01

OPR-02 SY-05 SSO-00 OC-06 CCO-00 SCCT-01 SCS-03 SCA-01

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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8811

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

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USMISSION USUN NEWYORK

USIA WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR SY LE

SUBJ: JULY 25 SYRIAN MEDIA REPORT CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT IN BEIRUT
AND CONTINUED SYRO-PALESTINIAN TALKS IN DAMASCUS

1. SYRIAN MEDIA REPORTED ANNOUNCEMENT BY AL ENVOY AL-KHOULI
THAT ALL WARRING FACTIONS HAD AGREED TO CEASEFIRE EFFECTIVE
AT 0800L JULY 25. AL-KHOULI STATED THAT ASF WILL BE
REINFORCED BY ADDITIONAL ARAB FORCES. SEVEN POINT AGREEMENT
INCLUDES FOLLOWING POINTS:

A) RETURN OF NORMAL CONDITIONS TO BEIRUT BY ENSURING
MOVEMENT BETWEEN EASTERN AND WESTERN SECTORS, PASSAGE OF
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FUEL AND ZAHRANI REFINERY, RESTORATION OF PTT CONNECTIONS,

PROTECTION OF CENTRAL BANK AND REOPENING OF PORT;

B) REOPENING OF BEIRUT AIRPORT;

C) RESOLUTION OF QUESTIONS AFFECTING "HOT SPOTS" AT
TELL ZAATAR AND MOUNT LEBANON;

D) ELIMINATION OF MILITARY APPEARANCES -- BARRICADES,
FORTIFIED POSITIONS, ETC.;

E) END TO PROPAGANDA ATTACKS BETWEEN PALESTINIANS
AND SYRIA;

F) IMPLEMENTATION OF CLAUSES AND ANNEXES OF CAIRO
AGREEMENT PERTAINING TO PALESTINIAN PRESENCE IN LEBANON;

G) INITIATION OF POLITICAL DIALOGUE MAONG PARTIES TO
REACH COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT.

2. SYRIAN MEDIA DID NOT EVINCE ANY OPTIMISM THAT
LATEST CEASEFIRE WOULD HOLD. ACCORDING TO PRESS, NEWS
AGENCIES REPORTED FROM BEIRUT PREVIOUS NIGHT THAT FATAH
AND JUMBLATT FORCES SHELLED EAST BEIRUT IN BID TO
SABOTAGE CEASEFIRE. PRIOR TO THIS SECURITY SITUATION
WAS REPORTED AS RELATIVELY CALM DESPITE INTERMITTENT
EXCHANGES OF FIRE IN COMMERCIAL AREA AND INCREASE IN
SNIPING INCIDENTS.

3. MEDIA NOTED CONTINUATION OF TALKS IN DAMASCUS BETWEEN
SYRIAN AND PALESTINIAN DELEGATIONS. AFTER FOUR-HOUR
MEETING EVENING JULY 24, FONMIN KHADDAM STATED TO SANA
THAT, "WE ARE CONTINUING NEGOTIATIONS, AND THINGS ARE
GOING WELL. WE WILL MEET AGAIN SUNDAY EVENING".

4. MEDIA REPORTED MEETING IN BAALBEK YESTERDAY OF
IMAM MUSA SADR, LEBANESE BAATHIST ASAM QANSU, LEBANESE
MUSLIM AND POLITICAL FIGURES AND SOME SYRIAN OFFICERS.
GROUP DISCUSSED WAYS SYRIA COULD ASSIST IN PRESERVING
SECURITY AND REINSTITUTING SUPPLY SYSTEM IN BAALBEK
REGION. CONFEREES FORMED CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND NUMBER
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OF SUBCOMMITTEES TO SUPERVISE DISTRIBUTION OF SUPPLIES
AND FUEL, RESTRAIN PRICE RISES AND PREVENT HOARDING.
THEY ALSO PRAISED SYRIAN ARMY FOR RESTORING ORDER TO
REGION. MEDIA NOTED THAT REPORTERS FROM VARIOUS ARAB
AND FOREIGN NEWS SERVICES HAD TOURED BAALBEK AREA TO
SEE FIRST-HAND RETURN OF CONDITIONS TO NORMAL FOLLOWING
SYRIAN INTERVENTION.

5. AKKAR DEPUTY SULEIMAN ALI STATED TO PRESS THAT SYRIAN INITIATIVE ALONE CAPABLE OF BRINGING END TO LEBANESE TRAGEDY. HE ACCUSED PALESTINIANS OF INTERFERING IN LEBANESE INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND ADDED THAT HE WAS CONVINCED RIGHT FROM START OF LEBANESE TROUBLES THAT THEY CAUSED BY SINAI ACCORD.

6. PRESS CLAIMED THAT LEBANESE JAMAL ALI ABDIN ANNOUNCED HIS DEFECTION FROM IRAQI ORGANIZATION IN HERMIL AFTER HE DISCOVERED THAT BEHIND ORGANIZATION'S FALSE SLOGANS WAS DESIRE TO SOW SEDITION AMONG LEBANESE MASSES.

7. PLA COMMANDER MISBAH BUDAYRI TOLD KUWAITI AL-QABAS THAT ONLY SYRIAN INITIATIVE CAPABLE OF SAFEGUARDING RIGHTS OF PALESTINIANS AND LEBANESE AND ENDING CRISIS. BUDAYRI HIMSELF WAS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT SITUATION BECAUSE PARTITION HAS BECOME FACT OF LIFE IN LEBANON. HE OPINED THAT INTRODUCTION OF MORE NON-SYRIAN ARAB FORCES INTO LEBANON (ASF) WOULD COMPLICATE SITUATION.

8. COMMENT: SYRIAN MEDIA SEEM TO HAVE ADOPTED PESSIMISTIC VIEW OF LATEST CEASEFIRE'S CHANCES FOR SUCCESS AND HAVE ALREADY BEGUN TO PIN BLAME ON FATAH/ JUMBLATT FOR ATTEMPTING TO UNDERMINE IT. SYRO-PALESTINIAN TALKS STILL SHOW NO SIGH OF BREAKTHROUGH; NO TANGIBLE EVIDENCE OF SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS HAS BEEN REVEALED. MEASURES ADOPTED AT BAALBEK MEETING IDENTIFY SYRIA MORE CLOSELY WITH ADMINISTRATION OF CIVILIAN AFFAIRS IN BEKAA.
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